



COPS Fact Sheet

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

Secure Our Schools Initiative

Secure Our Schools

Background

*"WE BELIEVE WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB
IN EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN IN AN
ENVIRONMENT THAT IS AS SAFE AS
POSSIBLE."*

*SUPERINTENDENT BUSTER EVANS
BLECKLEY COUNTY (GA)*

SCHOOL DISTRICT

COPS offers a variety of publications, products, and training opportunities to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS publications and products offer insights and experiences from others in the field addressing specific problems including:

- ✓ SchoolCOP software and accompanying Guide to Using School COP to Address Student Discipline Problems
- ✓ COPS Innovations: Addressing School Related Crime and Disorder
- ✓ The Law Enforcement Tech Guide: How to plan, purchase and manage technology

COPS also sponsors training opportunities and conferences to give law enforcement professionals an opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas. COPS publications and training opportunities are posted at COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

America's children spend more time in school than almost any other place outside the home. That places a huge responsibility on American schools and those charged with keeping them safe. In a time when a wide range of weapons traffics illegally among America's youth, maintaining school safety becomes an increasingly difficult task. Classrooms no longer depend solely on teachers, but on teams of administrators, health care workers, security staff and law enforcement professionals. Keeping America's children safe has become one of this country's most successful collaborations, and is a shining example of community policing.

The COPS Office has long demonstrated a commitment to school safety. COPS has invested more than \$752 million in America's schools through programs like COPS in Schools, School-Based Partnerships, and the School Safety Initiative. COPS expanded that range of programs in fiscal year 2002 to include Secure Our Schools. Secure Our Schools distributed \$5 million to help 68 schools in high-risk areas respond to growing safety concerns. Grantees are required to contribute a local match of 50 percent towards the total cost of the approved grant project.

Secure Our Schools (SOS) gives grant recipients the opportunity to establish and enhance a variety of school safety equipment and/or programs to continue to enhance school safety efforts within their communities. The SOS grants help cover the cost of security measures such as the placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures; security assessments; security training for students and personnel; coordination with local law enforcement; and other measures that could significantly increase the school's security. COPS worked with grantees to ensure that these funds address the most pressing security needs of our young people while they are in school. Secure Our Schools addresses a variety of existing and emerging problems relating to school security, through responses that range from traditional to innovative, and rely on both new technology and the experience of school administrators and law enforcement professionals.

Law enforcement officers are encouraged to consult with school violence researchers, child psychologists, principals, and other school personnel to develop community policing programs to prevent school violence. These programs should be tailored specifically to improve on each school's safety efforts.

Contact COPS

For more information on COPS programs and resources, please contact the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.